

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029101

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

FOL REPEAT USUN 474 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV
JERUSALEM CAIRO FEB 12

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 474

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UN XF
SUBJ: MEETING WITH SYG: MIDDLE EAST

1. AT MY MEETING WITH SYG FEBRUARY 12 HE GAVE ME
RUN-DOWN OF CONVERSATIONS HE HAS HAD IN LAST TWO DAYS
ON MIDDLE EAST.

2. WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SYG MAREI AND EGYPTIAN
PERMREP MEGUID SAW SYG FEBRUARY 11. MAREI DID NEARLY
ALL OF THE TALKING. HE SPOKE OF HIS MEETING WITH
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DR. KISSINGER FEB. 10 AND EXPRESSED GREAT EGYPTIAN CONFIDENCE
IN SECRETARY AND THE US ROLE IN THE ME BUT WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SYRIAN SITUATION AND THE OIL EMBARGO. HE REQUESTED
SYG TO USE HIS PERSONAL INFLUCENCE IN BOTH OF THESE ISSUES.

3. WITH REGARD TO DEADLOCK IN DISENGAGEMENT ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI FRONT MAREI SAID SYRIANS WERE BEING VERY DIFFICULT AND ASKED WALDHIEM'S INTERVENTION WITH SYRIAN LEADERSHIP TO BE REASONABLE. PROGRESS ON SYRIAN ISSUE WOULD BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN PERSUADING OTHER ARAB LEADRES TO LIFT OIL EMBARGO, HE THOUGHT, BUT MAREI ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS COULD BE MADE WITH FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE SHAH OF IRAN.

4. HE ALSO TOLD SYG, WHO EMPHATICALLY AGREED, THAT EGYPT DID NOT WANT SC MEETING OR RESUMPTION 28TH GA AT THIS TIME.

5. AS FOLLOW-UP TO THIS, SYG CALLED IN SYRIAN PERMREP FEBRUARY 12 AND ASKED HIM TO EXPRESS TO HIS GOVERNMENT IN STRONGEST TERMS SYG'S CONCERN THAT NO ENOUGH PROGRESS BEING MADE ON SYRIAN/ISRAELI FRONT. SYG BELIEVES THAT PRES ASSAD IS FLEXIBLE BUT THAT FONMIN IS THE LEADER OF BAATH MILITANTS WHO WANT NO AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. IN SECOND FOLLOW-UP WITH SOV PERMREP MALIK FEB 12 SYG STRESSED EGYPTIAN DESIRE FOR NO SC OR GA MEETINGS WHICH MALIK SAID HE SHARED. SYG ALSO APPEALED TO MALIK TO USE SOVIET INFLUENCE WITH SYRIANS. MALIK'S RESPONSE WAS THAT DEALING WITH SYRIANS WAS VERY DIFFICULT BUT THEY WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD. MALIK ALSO TOLD HIM THAT ONLY PRESENT HOPE FOR PROGRESS WAS PROCESS STARTED BY SECY KISSINGER AND SINCE SOVPETS ALSO SEEK SETTLEMENT IN AREA THEY WORKING TOWARD SAME END. MALIK ACKNOWLEDGED KISSINGER CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM.

7. SYG UNDECIDED WHETHER AND WHAT TO DO WITH SAUDI ARABIA BUT HAS INFORMED IRANIAN PERMREP HOVEYDA THAT ANY MOVE BY SHAH TO LOWER OIL ON PRICES CLD INFLUENCE PERSIAN GULF STATES TO RELIEVE OIL EMBARGO.

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8. COMMENT: SYG IN CALLING ME IN TO SPEAK ON THIS SUBJECT PROBABLY HAD TWO AIMS. FIRST IS TO KEEP US INFORMED OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN ME AND SECOND TO ADVISE US OF HIS STRONG BELIEF EGYPTIANS VERY SINCERELY SEEKING PEACE AT THIS TIME, HEAVILY RELYING ON KISSINGER DIPLOMACY AND THAT HE PREPARED TAILOR UN ACTIONS TO HELP BUT HIS COOPERATION MUST BE KEPT DEEP SECRET.

SCALI

UNQTEKISSINGER

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